

October 21, 1975

Dr. S. Luria
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University School
of Medicine
Palo Alto, California 02139

Dear Dr. Luria:

I am sending you my most recent grant proposals to give you a relatively detailed (perhaps too detailed) description of my current research plans. The avian tumor virus proposal was submitted to the American Cancer Society this spring, and I have been unofficially informed that it will be funded at the requested level. The mammary tumor virus application was submitted to the National Institutes of Health last month; it requests five years support. In both cases, I am the principal investigator, and Mike is listed as a co-investigator. Conversely, I am a co-investigator, along with Drs. Levinson and Levintow, on his NIH grant.

If I should go to MIT, I would expect to split my time between avian and mouse mammary viruses (whereas now I devote about 10% of my time to mammary virus). I think the availability of good animal quarters, some mouse geneticists, and the medical resources of the Boston area might direct me to more biological approaches to the mammary tumor virus problem, but I cannot say at this point what those approaches might be. I think I would look upon the avian work as the "bread and butter" of the operation, and I would probably direct my energies particularly at the mechanism of integration and the mapping and expression of integrated provirus in permissive cells. This may, of course, mean that Bob Weinberg and I will be asking some similar questions of similar (though far from identical) viruses, but I have always viewed this as a healthy thing. I do not feel that the situation is (or need be) tense or meanly competitive; I would be sorry to think that it would jeopardize his promotion. If so, I would probably consider it a mistake to move, and MIT would probably be making a mistake by asking me to do so.

I trust we'll be able to get together to talk this over sometime in early November.

Best regards,

Harold E. Varmus, M. D.
Associate Professor
Department of Microbiology

HEV/es